The Great Depression plunged the American people into an economic crisis unlike any endured in this country before or since. The worst and longest downturn in our economic history threw millions of hardworking individuals into poverty, and for more than a decade neither the free market nor the federal government was able to restore prosperity.

<http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/about.htm>

By the summer of 1944, American forces had fought their way across the Pacific on two lines of attack to reach a point 300 miles southeast of Mindanao, the southernmost island in the Philippines. In the Central Pacific, forces under Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commanding the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean areas, had island-hopped through the Gilberts, the Marshalls, and the Carolines. More than 1,000 miles to the south, Allied forces under General Douglas MacArthur, commanding the Southwest Pacific area, had blocked the Japanese thrust toward Australia, and then recaptured the Solomons and New Guinea and many of its outlying islands, isolating the huge Japanese base at Rabaul.

“World War II: Official U.S. Army Campaign Histories - 38 Volumes

- July 3, 1945”. World War II. Day Sunday. 2011.

[www.35thinfdivassoc.com/CentralEurope/](http://www.35thinfdivassoc.com/CentralEurope/)

The Japanese helped out by over tending themselves in the Midway campaign, which effectively took the Japanese navy out of the strategic war (June 1943). Ultimately the USA leapfrogged all the way to the Philippines and Okinawa. It was then that the USA began its own indiscriminate massacre of civilians via a bombing campaign. There was a nod towards attacking militarily important targets but mainly the attacks were meant to kill as many Japanese civilians as possible in the hope that the government would collapse. This strategy was a failure since the Japanese never seriously considered surrender due to bombing alone. It was the combination of bombing, a starvation blockade, and a threat of Soviet invasion that finally caused the Japanese to quit in 1945.

“Infantry Tactics of World War II

- July 9, 1945”. World War II. Day Sunday. 2011.

<http://www.bayonetstrength.150m.com/Tactics/infantry_tactics_of_world_war_tw.htm>

During 1941, there was a list of peace objectives agreed upon by two Allied leaders, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to be put into action at the end of World War II. This list was called the Atlantic Charter, specifying: peacetime goals and Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms. These Four Freedoms came from a speech, which he gave to the U.S. Congress in early 1941. This speech soon became “The Lend-lease Act”, which was a plan under the United States to extend financial assistance to the Great Britain and France to fight the enemies at the time (Japan, Germany, and Italy). “Briefly, in the Atlantic Charter the two leaders made it clear what their respective countries did not seek to gain from the outcome of the war. Neither the United States nor Great Britain sought new territories, and both respected the right of the people of every country to choose their own form of government.”

“What was the Atlantic charter” e notes. Day Sunday. 2011

<http://www.enotes.com/history/q-and-a/what-was-atlantic-charter-289042>

American strategy in Europe was to hold Germany, keep them from expanding. Thus American armed forces were used to bomb German cities and military targets. Troops were used to occupy French colonies to prevent Axis expansion into them. It wasn't until mid 1943 that the USA even began operations on land in Europe, that being the invasion of the peripheral territory of Sicily.

After the Soviets had taken most of the fight out of the German army, the USA along with Britain finally decided to a major invasion of France, June 1944. Probably coming a year later than necessary due to British foot dragging, this invasion led quickly to German over extension and collapse.

In the air war, the USA at least ostensibly tried to maintain attacks on military or industrial targets using daylight bombing. The British had no such qualms and went directly after civilians, killing hundreds of thousands in Germany.

In the Pacific the USA was pretty much alone and thus had a much more direct and reasonable strategy. There the plan was to isolate the various Japanese island fortresses, by passing most, occupying a few for bases, and thus leapfrogging across the Pacific.

“Overview of World War II

- September 17, 1945”. World War II. Day Sunday. 2011.

<http://americanhistory.about.com/od/worldwarii/a/wwiioverview_2.htm>